

### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Independent claim 28 has been amended to include the means for mounting the retainer clip on a fence post, which previously was added to claim 18. Claims 32 and 33 are added to round out the scope of protection. The "end cap" configuration of claim 33 is seen in Fig. 7. Claims 18-33 are pending.

Claims 28, 30 and 31 have been rejected as anticipated by Wong. Claims 28, 30 and 31 have been rejected as anticipated by Guido. Claim 29 has been rejected as obvious over Wong in view of Matsui. The rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants note that each of the applied references is directed to a field of endeavor (specimen tube holder in Wong, pipe clip in Guido, wire bundle clamp in Matsui) that is completely removed from that of a fence strand retainer clip. Independent claims 28 and 32 require the presence of means for mounting the retainer clip on a fence post. None of the applied references include such a feature, and again, each of the applied references is directed to a field completely remote from fence strand retainer clips. Even if other art of record is directed to fence strand retainer clips, nothing in the present record suggests any motivation for combining such art with the applied references from those remote fields of endeavor. Therefore, the rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. Any deficiencies or overpayments can be charged or credited to Deposit Account 13-2725.

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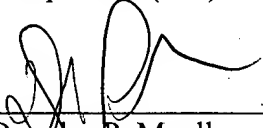
Respectfully submitted,

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

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April 23, 2001

Date

  
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